

We Claim:

1. In an electronic device, said electronic device executing an email application, a method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a plurality of storage locations for storing email messages, said email messages including a header and a body, said storage locations accessible by said email application, said email application designating one of said storage locations as an active storage location;
  - providing a search feature for use with said email application, said search feature including a user-input parameter, said search feature using said parameter to retrieve data from said email messages;
  - searching said designated active storage location with said search feature;
  - retrieving data indicated by said parameter from selected email messages in said active storage location; and
  - creating a new document containing data retrieved from said messages.
2. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:
  - forwarding said new document to a user of said electronic device.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said search feature searches all of said plurality of storage locations for storing email messages.
4. The method of claim 3 comprising the additional steps of:
  - searching the header of said email messages for data referenced by said parameter;
  - searching the body of said email messages for data referenced by said parameter; and
  - searching any email attachments for data referenced by said parameter.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein said new document is in Hypertext Markup Language ( HTML ) format.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said search feature is integrated with said email application.
7. The method of claim 3 wherein said search feature is a stand-alone application.
8. The method of claim 3 wherein the email data in said new document is sorted by date of creation of the email message from which the data was retrieved.
9. The method of claim 3 wherein the email data in said new document is sorted by date of receipt of the email message from which the data was retrieved.
10. The method of claim 3 wherein the email data in said new document is sorted by sender.
11. The method of claim 3 wherein said new document is forwarded to a user after deleting the email data that is duplicative.
12. In an electronic device, said electronic device executing an email application, a method, said method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a plurality of storage locations for storing email messages, said email messages including a header and a body, said storage locations accessible by said email application;
  - providing a search feature for use with said email application, said search feature including a user-input parameter, said search feature using said parameter to reference data in said email messages;
  - searching said storage locations with said search feature, said search feature copying less than all the data in a selected email message containing data referenced by said parameter;
  - inserting the copied data from said selected email message and a hyperlink to said selected email message into a new document.

13. The method of claim 12 comprising the additional steps of:

searching the header of said email messages for data referenced by said parameter;

searching the body of said email messages for data referenced by said parameter; and

searching any email attachments for data referenced by said parameter.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said new document is in Hypertext Markup Language ( HTML ) format.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said search feature is integrated with said email application.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein said search feature is a stand-alone application.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein said new document is forwarded to a user after deleting the email data that is duplicative.

18. In an electronic device, a medium holding computer-executable instructions for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

executing an email application, said email application using a search feature, said search feature accepting a user-input parameter to reference data in email messages saved in a plurality of storage locations accessible to said email application, said email messages including a header and a body;

searching said storage locations with said search feature, said search feature copying less than all the data in a selected email message containing data referenced by said parameter;

inserting the copied data from said selected email message into a new document.

19. The medium of claim 18 wherein the method comprises the additional steps of:  
    searching a header of said email messages for data referenced by said  
parameter;  
    searching a body of said email messages for data referenced by said  
parameter; and  
    searching email attachments for data referenced by said parameter.
20. The medium of claim 18 wherein the document created by said method is in  
Hypertext Markup Language ( HTML ) format.
21. The medium of claim 18 wherein the method comprises the additional step of:  
    deleting duplicative data from said new document.
22. In an electronic device, said electronic device executing an email application, a  
method, said method comprising the steps of:  
    providing a plurality of storage locations for storing email messages, said  
email messages including a header and a body, said storage locations accessible by  
said email application;  
    providing a search feature for use with said email application, said search  
feature including a user-input parameter, said search feature using said parameter to  
reference data in said email messages;  
    searching said storage locations with said search feature, said search feature  
copying less than all the data in a selected email message containing data referenced  
by said parameter;  
    inserting the copied data from said selected email message into a new  
document; and  
    caching a copy of said new document; and  
    cross-referencing said new document copy and said search request in an index  
of cached documents.

23. The method of claim 22 comprising the additional steps of:

searching said index for cached documents cross-referenced to a search request;  
retrieving a cached document responsive to said search request;  
searching said storage locations for additional responsive data in email messages stored after a last modification date of said responsive cached document;  
updating said cached document with said responsive data so that only non-duplicative data is inserted into said cached document; and  
changing said modification date of said cached document to reflect the date of said search request.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said cached document is forwarded to a user.